

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022

**MEETING MINUTES
of the Metuchen Board of Education**

Metuchen High School
400 Grove Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840

1. Call to Order

2. Flag Salute

3. Notice of Meeting

I hereby make this statement to indicate compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act known as Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of New Jersey, 1975, which became effective 90 days after enactment, January 19, 1976.

Notice of this meeting was given by providing the location, time and date of this meeting, and posting of the same on the front door of the Board of Education offices, by delivering copies to the Borough Hall and the Metuchen Public Library, The Home News and Tribune, The Criterion Sentinel, The Star Ledger, and by filing a copy with the Borough Clerk as prescribed by this law.

4. Roll Call

Mr. Benderly	P	Ms. Killean	P
Ms. Cook	A	Mr. Lifton	P
Mr. Derflinger	P	Dr. Spigner	P
Mr. Glassberg	P	Mr. Suss	P
Dr. Johnson-Marcus	P		

5. Showcase of Success

❖ Student Advisory Board

Students from the Student Advisory Board attended the meeting to talk about what they do and to answer a few questions.

Eashaan Bhattacharyya, 7th grade

Kyle Rutter, Sophomore

Keira Dowd, Junior

Sama Samin, 6th grade

came and spoke to the Board.

6. Meeting Open to the Public *(for any topic)*

Students of the Robotics Team came up and advocated for school funding for their club.

Mr. Patrick McGrory of 6 Sylvan Ave came up and spoke about the Robotics Team.

Mr. Eric Mitz of 31 Woodbridge Ave spoke about the merits of the Robotics Club.

7. Presentations

- ❖ Referendum - Website Overview, Three Ballot Questions - Mr. Lifton gave the presentation.
- ❖ District Goals Update - Dr. Caputo gave an update.

8. Reports

- ❖ President's Report - Mr. Glassberg gave a short report.
- ❖ Superintendent's Report - Dr. Caputo gave a short report.
- ❖ Committee Reports

Mr. Benderly gave a report on The Garden State Coalition of Schools.

Dr. Johnson-Marcus gave a short report on the Human Relations Commission.

Ms. Killean gave a report on the Extra-Curricular Committee.

Mr. Lifton gave a report on the Referendum Committee.

Dr. Spigner gave a report.

Mr. Suss gave a report on the Finance/Tech Committee.

9. Old Business -None

10. New Business -None

11. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Meetings

March 22, 2022	Special Business Meeting (1)
March 22, 2022	Special Business Meeting (2)
March 22, 2022	Board Meeting

Mr. Glassberg motioned. Mr. Lifton seconded. Motion carried 7-0-1. Mr. Derflinger abstained.

12. Meeting Open to the Public *(for any topic)*

Ms. Devra Golbe of 131 Highland Ave came up inquiring about the Referendum.

Mr. Naresh Ramaratnam came up and talked about STEM and district goals.

13. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

(at this time the Board will take formal action on the following items – see attachments)

Often times it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases a unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. If the Superintendent is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education, it is then

referred to the appropriate board committee. The members of the board committee work with administration and the Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. When the committee is satisfied with the matter, it is presented to the Board of Education for discussion before any final action is taken. Only then, is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting.

A. PERSONNEL

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Appointment - Student Observer

Move to approve the following student observer in the Metuchen Public Schools district for the 2021 – 2022 school year:

Name	School
Lindsey Curtis, University of Phoenix	Campbell

2. Medical Leave of Absence - Certificated Staff

Move to approve the medical leave of absence of Beth Abbott, PE/Health Teacher at Metuchen High School, effective April 25, 2022 through approximately May 20, 2022.

3. Maternity Leave - Paraprofessional

Move to approve the maternity leave of absence of Jennifer Lesniak, Paraprofessional at Edgar School, effective approximately May 16, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

4. Retirement - Certificated Staff

Move to accept, with regret, the retirement of Laura McCadden, Math Teacher at Edgar Middle School, effective June 30, 2022.

5. Appointment - Lunch Aide

Move to approve the following as a lunch aide in Metuchen Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year, effective April 13, 2022, pending criminal history clearance:

Name	Rate
Erin Gawronski	\$13.75/hour

6. Appointment – Substitutes

Move to approve the additional substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year, effective April 13, 2022, pending criminal history clearance (Agenda 8/24/2021, Section 13 A5):

Substitute Teacher	Certification	Day Rate
Paula Lifton	Sub with college degree	\$90/day
Meryl Gold	Sub with college degree	\$90/day
Ronald Deloatch	Sub with teacher certification	\$95/day
Ashlyn Jarius	Sub with 60+ college credits	\$85/day

7. Appointment – Formal Mentor Teacher

Move to approve the following additional staff to serve as a formal mentor for the 2021-2022 school year (Agenda 8/24/22, Section 13A 16):

New Teacher	School	Mentor	Payment Alternate Route
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Neha Makwana	Campbell School	Jeremy Barnes	Partial Year/\$300
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8. 2022-2023 Fall Coach Appointments –Metuchen High School

Move to approve the following 2022-2023 Metuchen High School Fall Coach Appointments:

Name	Assignment	Step	22-23 Stipend
Joelle Williams*	Field Hockey Head Coach	1	\$9,486
Christina Dybas	Field Hockey Assistant Coach	1	\$6,631

*Represents Adjunct Coach

9. Appointment - District Substitute Nurse

Move to approve a district substitute Nurse, Susan Fackler, to provide per diem nursing assistance, at a rate of \$125 per day, as needed, from January 1, 2022 through June 21, 2022, to be paid through ESSER Grant Funds.

10. Additional Instructional Stipend

Move to approve the following additional instructional stipend for the 2021- 2022 school year to provide IEP based intervention, effective, May 2, 2022 through June 21, 2022:

Name	Assignment	2021-2022 Stipend
Aubree Deminski	MHS IEP based intervention stipend	\$7,499, prorated

11. Appointment - Leave Replacement

Move to approve the appointment of Paul Napoli, Leave Replacement for Beth Abbott, PE/Health Teacher at Metuchen High School, at a rate of \$278.38/day, effective approximately April 13, 2022 through approximately May 20, 2022.

12. Appointment - Home Based ABA Specialists

Move to approve the following self contained Teachers, Child Study Team, and Speech Therapists to provide home based ABA programming and training as needed:

Name	Rate
Katherine McKenna	\$47/hr
Kelsee Young	\$47/hr
Brian Jeney	\$47/hr
Samantha Pauls	\$47/hr
Kathy Thomas	\$47/hr
Christina Dybas	\$47/hr
Dawn Valovcin	\$47/hr
Karen Calantoni	\$47/hr
Kaitlyn Penna	\$47/hr
Amrita Bindra	\$47/hr
Dana Donatelli	\$47/hr
Karla Riera	\$47/hr
Daniel Rosa	\$47/hr
Patricia Lewis	\$47/hr
Nicole Benfatti	\$47/hr
Christine Theiss	\$47/hr
Emily Peluso	\$47/hr

Emily Donlin	\$47/hr
Casey Sullivan	\$47/hr
Eric Stein	\$47/hr

13. Appointment - SEPAC Facilitators

Move to approve the following staff to provide the annual SEPAC workshop:

Name	Rate
Karen Calantoni	\$47/hr
Stephanie Angus	\$47/hr
Brian Jeney	\$47/hr
Julie Anderson	\$47/hr
Lauren Thompson	\$47/hr
Chrissy Theiss	\$47/hr

14. Reading Intervention Services

Move to approve Alyssa Polesky to provide Special Services reading intervention services at a rate of \$47 per hour.

Mr. Glassberg motioned. Ms. Killeen seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0 for items 1-5 and items 7-14. Motion carried 7-0-1 for item 6. Mr. Lifton abstained.

Dr. Caputo wished Ms. McCadden a happy and healthy retirement. Other board members also shared well wishes.

-----end of personnel section-----

B. FINANCE

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Transportation Jointure 2021-2022

Move to approve the Transportation Jointure for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year with the Camden County Educational Services Commission.

2. Transportation Jointures and Individual Routes 2021-2022

Move to approve the transportation jointures and individual routes for the 2021-2022 school year with the following districts and educational service commissions:

Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, Somerset County Educational Services Commission, Monmouth / Ocean Educational Services Commission, South Plainfield School District, Edison School District, Piscataway School District, and Woodbridge School District.

3. Professional Development

Move to approve the following professional development activities as shown on the following chart:

Start Date	End Date	Activity Title	Name	Building	Approved	Payment	FFPI Proposal #
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4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Collaboration Training	North, Jennifer	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Collaborative Training	Dougherty, Natalie	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Labor Management Collaboration	Porowski, Edward	MHS	\$0	No cost	
4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Collaboration Training for Co Chairs	Jaye, Ashley	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Collaborative Initiative	Henn, Kathleen	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Collaboration Training	McKenna, Katie	Moss	\$0	No cost	
4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Collaboration Training	Schlavis, Bill	MHS	\$0	No cost	
4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Collaboration Training	Gouveia, Michele	EMS	\$0	No cost	
4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Collaboration Training	Bonassisa, Deneane	Central Office	\$0	No cost	
4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Collaboration Training	Azevedo, Suzy	EMS	\$0	No cost	
4/6/2022	4/6/2022	Rutgers Collaboration Training	Karger, Sarah	MHS	\$0	No cost	
4/13/2022	4/14/2022	ASCD Pre-K and Kindergarten Conference	Fischer, Laura	Moss	\$248	FFPI	22-106
4/13/2022	4/14/2022	41st Annual Statewide Conference for Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Educators	Masters, Sarah	Moss	\$248	FFPI	22-105
4/25/2022	4/25/2022	"Anatomy and Medicine in the Nazi Period,"	Wisniewski, Lynda	MHS	\$0	No cost	
4/25/2022	4/25/2022	Teachers Study Day, "Anatomy and Medicine in the Nazi Period"	Connolly, Laura	MHS	\$0	No cost	
4/28/2022	5/26/2022	Fostering Collective Efficacy in Schools	Cohen, Richard	Central Office	\$299	Other	
4/29/2022	4/29/2022	Emerging Addiction Conference	Rubin, Samantha	MHS	\$79	FFPI	22-102
5/2/2022	5/2/2022	Collaborative Leadership Workshop	Stike, Brian	MHS	\$0	No cost	
5/19/2022	5/19/2022	Work-Based Learning(Formerly Structured Learning Experiences) Supervision	Valovcin, Dawn	MHS	\$739	Other (Special Services)	
5/19/2022	5/19/2022	Implementing the Middle School Civics Mandate	North, Jennifer	Central Office	\$0	No cost	

4. Transportation Providers 2021-2022

Move to approve South Plainfield School District, Durham School Services, Garas Transportation, Nelvi Transit Inc., D&L Bus Services, Mercy Transportation, Road to Success, and Stars Transport Inc. as transportation providers for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Suss motioned. Mr. Derflinger seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

-----end of finance section-----

C. POLICY

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

Move to affirm the findings of the previously reported case:

- CES022822001

2. Suspensions

The Board hereby acknowledges receipt of the suspension report summary for March 21, 2022- April 8, 2022.

3. School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports

Move to accept the following reports on the completion of the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill:

- 3/18/2022 8:30 – 2:30 PM, Metuchen High School, student parking lot. Full School Evacuation Practice during Physical Education Classes, Bus 29 was used for all. Supervised by Brian Stike / Teachers Leading the drill were Bob Ulmer, Nick Zaneto, Mark Mooney, Beth Abbott, Julie Youngman, and Michelle Huff
- 3/24/2022 12:30 – 12:45 PM, Campbell Elementary School, Locations for the drill were staff parking lot, Durham Ave & Campbell driveway between Talmadge & Durham. C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9, Van 6, and Van 12 all participated in the evacuation practice. Supervised by Dr. Vincent Costanza
- 3/31/2022 Moss School AM & PM Kindergarten classes, bus safety drill in class instruction, letter sent by Mr. Rick Cohen (Principal/Asst. Superintendent)
- 4/1/2022 8:37 AM, Moss School, in back of school. Van 14. Supervised by Marissa Plancher, Natalie Dougherty, and Karen Calantoni
- 4/1/2022 9:02 AM, Moss School, in back of school. Van 12, Van 16, Van 2. Supervised by Marissa Plancher, Natalie Dougherty, and Karen Calantoni
- 4/1/2022 11:53 AM, Moss School, in back of school. Van 14. Supervised by Marissa Plancher and Natalie Dougherty.
- 4/4/2022 8:30 AM – 2:15 PM, Edgar School, back bus circle. Full School Evacuation Practice during Physical Education & Health Classes, Bus 27 was used for all. Supervised by Suzy Azevedo / Teachers Leading the drill were Mr. Carter, Ms. Gilbert, Ms. Huff, Ms. Kuhthlau, and Mr. Butler

Mr. Glassberg motioned. Dr. Johnson-Marcus seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

-----end of policy section-----

D. CURRICULUM

Motion/Second/Comments/Roll Call

1. Field Trips

Move to approve the following field trips for students in the Metuchen School District as shown:

School	Destination	Class/Group/ Purpose	Teachers/ Advisors	Date (s)	No. Of Students	Board Cost- Transportation	Board Cost- Subs.
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CES	Camden Aquarium	1 st Grade – Students will observe organisms, interact, and understand how they are interdependent in various ways (First Grade Science Organism Unit).	Kindler Doherty Evans Jeney Makwana Palmieri Shapiro	5/11/2022	185	\$5,800 bus cost to students	\$0
CES	Turtleback Zoo	2 nd Grade – Students will make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.	Santasieri Savarese Strauss Spring Spak Signorile Levin LoPresti	6/2/2022	153	\$1,950 bus cost to students	\$0
MHS	Hillside Community Food Bank & Tony's Pizza	12 th Grade –The students will learn about the organization and volunteer.	Robbins 2 Teachers-TBD	5/17/2022	25	\$50 bus cost to students	\$285
MHS	Hillside Community Food Bank & Tony's Pizza	12 th Grade –The students will learn about the organization and volunteer.	Robbins Girin Flores	5/19/2022	25	\$50 bus cost to students	\$285
MHS	Repertorio Espanol & Guantanamer a Restaurant	9 th – 11 th Grade - Students will watch Carmen Rivera's "La Gringa", a play which tells the story of a young New York woman searching for her Puerto Rican roots. The play will allow students to understand the struggles that many Latinos face.	Flores Vosinas Ortega Cermak	5/19/2022	50	\$1,395 bus cost to students	\$380

Mr. Derflinger motioned. Mr. Suss seconded. Motion carried 8-0-0.

-----end of curriculum section-----

14. Meeting Open to Public (*for any topic*) - None

15. Announcements

Dr. Springer gave announcements.

16. Motion to Go Into Executive Session (*when applicable*)

Resolution to Close Meeting

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BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the Sunshine Act, N.J.S. 10:4-12 and 13, that the Board of Education will now meet in executive session to discuss _____ and that matters discussed will be disclosed to the public as soon as the reason for confidentiality no longer exist.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Glassberg motioned to adjourn. All in favor. Adjourned at 9:47 pm.